

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EDWARD K. WU BYLINER THE BALTIMORE
SUN TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 HEADED "HUA PLEDGES 'GREAT ORDER'
MOVE, DESTRUCTION OF 'GANG OF 4' IN '77."
2. HONG KONG--OUTLINING CHINA'S TASKS FOR 1977, CHAIRMAN
HUA KUO-FENG HAS PROMISED THAT THE YEAR AHEAD WILL WITNESS
A MOVE TOWARD WHAT HE CALLED "GREAT ORDER" AND THE COMPLETE
SMASHING OF THE ANTI-PARTY "GANG OF FOUR."
3. HIS PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE MONTHS WAS VOICED AFTER A
YEAR OF TRAGEDIES RANGING FROM THE DEATHS OF MAO TSE-TUNG,
CHOU EN-LAI AND CHU TEH TO THE DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKES AND
THE GRAVEST POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF CHINA'S
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

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4. MR. HUA TOLD A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE IN
PEKING THAT 1977 WOULD BE A YEAR OF UNITED STRUGGLE AND
TRIUMPHANT ADVANCE. THE TONE OF HIS SPEECH SUGGESTED THAT
CHINA IN THE NEW YEAR, AS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, WILL AGAIN
BE PRIMARILY PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS SORTING

OUT THE AFTERMATH OF THE OUSTER OF THE "GANG OF FOUR"
AND MAKING UP THE ECONOMIC LOSSES ALLEGEDLY RESULTING FROM
THEIR INTERFERENCE.

5. MR. HUA, WHO SUCCEEDED MAO AFTER THE LATTER'S DEATH IN
SEPTEMBER, IS LOSING NO OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIMSELF BETTER
KNOWN AMONG THE 850 MILLION CHINESE PEOPLE. HE DELIVERED
HIS SATURDAY ADDRESS BEFORE THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AS
HIS COUNTRY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PUBLICLY CELEBRATED THE
BIRTHDAY OF MAO.

6. MR. HUA'S CAMPAIGN TO MAKE HIMSELF BETTER KNOWN TO THE
PEOPLE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED BY CHAIRMAN MAO AT
THE TIME HE CHOSE THE PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL, THEN RELATIVELY
LITTLE KNOWN, TO BE HIS SUCCESSOR.

7. MR. HUA--AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF HUGE PORTRAITS OF HIM-
SELF AND THE LATE CHAIRMAN--WAS GIVEN THUNDEROUS OVATIONS.
THE DELEGATES REPEATEDLY SHOUTED, "SALUTE TO CHAIRMAN
HUA;" SUCH HONORS WERE ACCORDED IN THE PAST ONLY TO MAO.

8. MR. HUA'S ADDRESS TO THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE WAS
EXTREMELY WELL PUBLICIZED. IN HIS SPEECH HE PUT THE SPOT-
LIGHT ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE TACHAI PRODUCTION BRIGADE,
A SUBDIVISION OF A COMMUNE UNDER THE SAME NAME IN SHANSI
PROVINCE. MAO HAD PICKED IT AS THE NATIONAL PACESETTER
FOR AGRICULTURE, CHAIRMAN HUA NOTED. THE NEW LEADER OF
CHINA IS A PRIME MOVER IN THE CURRENT "LEARN FROM TACHAI"
MOVEMENT, WHICH IS AIMED AT MODERNIZING THE NATION'S RURAL
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ECONOMY.

9. MR. HUA, ACCORDING TO HSINHUA, THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY
CALLED 1976 "THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY YEAR" IN THE HISTORY
OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. IT HAS BEEN A YEAR, HE
ADDED, DURING WHICH THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAD MET RIGOROUS
TESTS AND WON GREAT VICTORIES.

10. MR. HUA MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE
ELIMINATION OF THE "GANG OF FOUR"--MAO'S WIDOW, CHIANG
CHING, AND HER THREE TOP POLITBURO ASSOCIATES. CHANG
CHUH-CHIAO, WANG HUNG-WEN AND YAO WEN-YUAN. THEY HAVE BEEN
ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TO SEIZE POWER AFTER MAO'S DEATH.

11. "THE ISSUE WAS SETTLED WITHOUT FIRING A SINGLE SHOT
OR SHEDDING A DROP OF BLOOD," MR. HUA TOLD THE MEETING OF
ABOUT 8,000 DELEGATES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENTIRE PEK-
ING LEADERSHIP.

12. IF THIS STATEMENT IS TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, IT MEANS

THAT MR. HUA'S PRE-EMPTIVE COUP OR COUNTER-COUP AGAINST THE "GANG OF FOUR" WAS A BLOODLESS ONE. UNCONFIRMED REPORT HAD SAID EARLIER THAT MAO YUAN-HSIN, CHAIRMAN MAO'S NEPHEW, AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS WERE KILLED DURING THE OCTOBER CRISIS.

13. DISCLAIMING ANY CREDIT FOR HIMSELF, MR.HUA ATTRIBUTED THE VICTORY OVER MAO'S WIDOW AND HER ALLEGED ACCOMPLICES TO "THE GREAT THOUGHTS OF MAO TSE-TUNG" AND TO THE LATE CHAIRMAN'S "WISE DECISION" WHEN HE WAS ALIVE TO GUARD AGAINST THE FOUR.

14. MR. HUA SET FORTH A FOUR-POINT "FIGHTING TASK" FOR CHINA IN 1977. END TEXT.

ROBINSON

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